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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/263,812 03/08/99 MILLER

W -1
EXAMINER

TM02/0309

ART UNIT
ENG, 4 PAPER NUMBER

LOOKING GLASS INC
2555 PENNSYLVANIA AVE #1010
WASHINGTON DC 20037

DATE MAILED
2643

03/09/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/263,812	Applicant(s) MILLER ET AL.
	Examiner George Eng	Art Unit 2643

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 1999.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

16) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) . 20) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 3/8/1999 (paper no. 5) has been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 1-2, 4, 7-11 and 13-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flohr (US PAT. 5,374,952) in view of Chater et al. (US PAT. 5,598,351 hereinafter Chater).

Regarding claim 1, Flohr discloses a videoconferencing system as shown in figure 8 comprising a first plurality of PC nodes 101 in at least a first geographic location (i.e., work

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group A), a second plurality of PC nodes 111 in at least a second geographic location (i.e., work group B), each PC node in each location equipped with at least one viewing screen and connected via a network providing both video conferencing between PC nodes in different geographic locations and multi-media access for each PC node (col. 4 line 64 through col. 5 line 8, col. 10 lines 23-36 and col. 13 lines 19-50). Flohr differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching each PC node construct as a booth. However, it is old and well known in the art of constructing a workstation in a booth to provide privacy, for example see Chater (figure 1 and col. 2 lines 57-60). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Flohr to construct each PC node in the booth, as per teaching of Chater, in order to increase privacy for users.

Regarding claim 2, Chater teaches that a plurality of terminals are geographically spaced apart (col. 2 lines 43-48) such that the first plurality of PC nodes at the local location are in a different time zone from the second plurality of PC nodes.

Regarding claim 4, Flohr teaches each PC node having access to one or both of cable TV and satellite TV (col. 5 lines 41-44 and col. 6 lines 10-18).

Regarding claims 7-8, Flohr discloses each location having computer stations with videoconferencing capability and each location including at least one room (figure 8 and col. 13 lines 10-33).

Regarding claim 9, Flohr teaches a method of videoconferencing comprising the steps of providing a plurality of terminals in each of a number of locations and conducting videoconferencing between users at least two terminals in different locations node (col. 4 line 64 through col. 5 line 8, col. 10 lines 23-36 and col. 13 lines 19-50). Flohr differs from the claimed

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invention is not specifically teaching each terminal constructed as a booth and applied in restaurants. However, it is old and well known in the art of constructing a workstation in a booth to provide privacy, for example see Chater (figure 1, col. 2 lines 57-60 and col. 5 lines 1-4). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Flohr to construct each PC node in the booth and applied in restaurants, as per teaching of Chater, in order to increase privacy for users and utility of videoconferencing system.

Regarding claims 10-11, Chater teaches that a plurality of terminals are geographically spaced apart (col. 2 lines 43-48) such that the terminals are in different time zones and in different countries.

Regarding claim 13-14, the limitations of the claims are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claims 7-8.

Regarding claim 15, Chater discloses each terminal comprising credit or charge card reader (col. 2 lines 61-63) such that each terminal for one of social or business pleasure in a public setting.

Regarding claim 16, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 15.

5. Claims 3, 5-6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flohr (US PAT. 5,374,952) in view of Chater et al. (US PAT. 5,598,351 hereinafter Chater) as applied in claims above, and further in view of Kikinis (US PAT. 5,929,849).

Regarding claim 3, the combination of Flohr and Chater differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching that each booth having Internet access. However, it is old and well known in the art of computer terminals having high speed Internet access, for example see Kikinis (col. 1 lines 29-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Flohr and Chater in having Internet access, as per teaching of Kikins, in order to improve the system for providing Internet access.

Regarding claim 5, the combination of Flohr and Chater differs from the claimed invention in not specifically teaching that each booth having access to a computer server of computer games. However, Kikinis teaches such (col. 1 line 66 through col. 2 line 5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Flohr and Chater in having access to the central server of computer games, in order to enhancing the system for providing entertainment.

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claims 3 and 5.

Regarding claim 12, the limitations of the claim are rejected as the same reasons set forth in claim 6.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Echerer (US PAT. 5,801,755) discloses a system for providing video conference between two booths (abstract and figure 1).

7. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-6306, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE")

Or:

(703) 308-6296 (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to George Eng whose telephone number is (703) 308-9555. The
examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday to Friday from 7 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Mr. Curtis Kuntz, can be reached on (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding
should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

GEORGE ENG

2 March, 2001

Curtis Kuntz
CURTIS KUNTZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600